

Message Text

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71

ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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DOD/ISA - COL. ROBSON

EA/VN - MR. WENZEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, FR, VN, LA

SUBJECT: PW/MIA'S - VISIT OF HOCKRIDGE FAMILY

REF : STATE 82845

FOR MARK PRATT FROM FRANK SIEVERTS

1. CONFIRMING TELCON, CAPT. HOCKRIDGE AND HIS CO-PILOT LT. ALAN U. GRAHAM, ARE BOTH MIA IN NORTH VIETNAM ON OCTOBER 17, 1972. THEIR F-111 AIRCRAFT FLEW FROM TAKLI ON 16 OCTOBER, AND LAST REGULAR RADIO CONTACT WAS AT 2339 HOURS 37 MILES EAST OF LUANG PRABANG. PLANE WAS SCHEDULED OVER TARGET NORTH OF HANOI AT 0007 OCTOBER 17. DRV MEDIA SUBSEQUENTLY CLAIMED TO HAVE SHOT PLANE DOWN FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THEN, DESCRIBING IT AS 4000TH US AIRCRAFT DOWNED OVER NVN. ON 19 OCTOBER HANOI DOMESTIC SERVICE STATED THAT LOCAL PEOPLE BURIED BODIES OF PILOTS ON BANKS OF PA LA

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RIVER, AND THAT ID CARDS IDENTIFIED THEM AS HOCKRIDGE AND

GRAHAM.

2. THIS IS THUS ONE OF MANY CASES IN WHICH DRV HAVE CONFIRMED DEATH OF US PILOTS BY NAME BUT FAILED TO ACCOUNT FOR THEM ON THE LISTS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO PARIS AGREEMENT. THOSE LISTS IDENTIFIED 23 AS HAVING DIED IN CAPTIVITY BUT PROVIDED NO INFO ON THOSE WHO MAY HAVE DIED IN THEIR CRASHES. HOCKRIDGE FAMILY'S APPEAL ON THIS SUBJECT TO DRV IS THUS REPRESENTATIVE OF SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF CASES ON WHICH DRV CLEARLY HAS INFO (INCLUDING LOCATION OF GRAVE) WHICH THEY HAVE FAILED THUS FAR TO PROVIDE.
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